



By the King.

A Proclamation concerning the making of Starch, and auoiding the annoyances thereby.



Hereas Our late deare and Royal Father of blessed memory, vpon complaints made, and often renewed vnto him, of the great inconueni-
ences which happened by the conuerting of great quantities of wheat-
flowre, Meale, and other things fit for the food of man, into the making
of Starch, & for the making of Starch in places vnfit & inconuenient,
whereby vnlausoury smells, and noisome stench did arise, to the great
annoyance of his louing Subjects, inhabiting neere vnto, or passing by
these places, out of his Princely care to haue a due reformation of these
inconueniencies, wherein the Common-wealth hath so great an in-
terest, did by his seuerall Proclamations command such directions to
be obserued, as vpon mature and deliberate consideration were concei-
ued, might beir tend to these ends; And yet through the wilfulnes of diuers of the Starchmakers,
wee haue heretofore failed of Our hopes and desires, and the mischiefes haue rather increased
through Our lenity: And whereas vpon an humble petition preferred vnto Our said Father
from diuers of the Starchmakers themselves, whereby they were humble suitors vnto his late
Maestie, that if hee would vouchsafe by his Letters Patents, to incorporate them into a body
politique to haue a perpetuall succession, and thereby to enable them by the helpe of good Lawes
and Ordinances, to gouerne the members of their owne body, that they would not onely submit
themselves, but would also be answerable for such a reformation to follow, as should take away
all iust cause of further Complaints, Our sayd Father conceiuing this to be the most probable
meanes for reformation, or to leaue them without excuse which would not be reformed, was gra-
ciously pleased to incorporate the Starchmakers, and to giue them such power for their govern-
ment as they did reasonably desire. And the Starchmakers on their parts did vndertake, that
they, nor any member of their body, would at any time then-after, make any Starch of wheat-
flowre, Meale, or other thing prohibited, but would make the same of Pollard and Branne onely,
and sell the same at and for reasonable prices. And that they would not set vp or maintaine any
Starch-house, or vse the making of any Starch in any places, which by the vnfit situation there-
of, or by the ill ordering thereof, might bee an annoyance to others, and if that all others might
be prohibited to make Starch to put to sale, who should not submit themselves to become mem-
bers of their body, and consequently to be subiect to their gouernement, That then they would
with the vttermost of their endeauours discover all such offenders, and draw them into a way
to bee proceeded against for their contempts, according to iustice in such sort as should bee di-
rected. Wee therefore calling to minde, that the prices of Corne are now growen to much higher
rates, then in these later and cheaper yeeres the same were at, and perceiuing that of late many
Tradesmen, out of a greedy desire of gaine, though with the hurt of the Common-wealth, haue
taken vpon them to be Starch-makers, and left their former Trades and Occupations, haue re-
solved to haue an effectuall reformation of the abuses aforesaid, and constantly to put the directi-
ons for that purpose formerly giuen, into due execution. And, to the end that what the Starch-
makers haue vndertaken on their parts to performe, may be indeed really performed; Wee haue
constituted and appointed a Surueyor, who shall be Our sworne Officer and Seruant to that
purpose, to ouersee the same in euery part. Now to the end that all Our louing Subjects may
take knowledge of Our Royall pleasure herein, wee doe by this Our present Proclamation
straitly charge and command, that no person or persons whatsoeuer, other then such as are or

8929
123
53631

shall be members of the said Company of Starch-makers, shall presume to attempt, or go about to make any Starch at all, other then for his, her, or their private use, & not to sell. And, that no person whatsoever, which shall make any Starch, shall make the same of any wheat-flower, Meale, or other thing then Pollard and Branne onely. That no person whatsoever shall set up, maintaine or use any Starch-house, or any Well for the making of Starch in any place, which for the situation thereof, either in respect of the neerenesse thereof to any Citie or Towne, or other dwellings, or in regard of the neerenesse to any common high way, roade, or ordinary passage of people is, or shall appeare to be noysome to any other. And that no Grocer, Chapman, or other person, who vendeth to buy Starch to sell againe, shall buy, vtter, sell, or otherwise barter, or vend any Starch, which they shall know to haue been made by any person who is not a known member of the said Company of Starch-makers, so as alwayes the Starch-makers shall be ready to sell the same, at, and for such reasonable prices, as the said Company haue by their Indenture vnder their common Seale heretofore vnderaken, and agreed to sell the same. And that no person presume to sell any Starch, as a Huckster or Hawker from doore to doore in private or secret, or otherwise then in their owne proper and open Shops or Warehouses. And that the said Company of Starch-makers shall duely put in execution, the power and authority giuen vnto them, for reformation of the abuses aforesaid. And Our Will and pleasure is, that if any person shall offend hereafter in any of the premises, or in giuing aide and assistance, to any the said offenders directly or indirectly, Our Will and command is, that Our Commissioners, which wee hereafter shall to that purpose authorize, for the ready hearing and dispatch of all complaints touching the premises, if wee shall thereto appoint any, or otherwise, all Our Judges and Justices in their seuerall places, shall heare and examine all the complaints which shall be made against any in that behalfe, and shall inflict such punishment vpon such offenders by imprisonment, or otherwise, as Our Judges, Justices, or Commissioners in their wisdomes shall thinke fit, hauing respect to the qualitie of their offences. And if Our Commissioners shall in their good discretions finde any whole offence or misdemeanour, deserueth to be made more exemplary, Our pleasure and command is, That such offenders shall vndergoe the Censure and severity of Our Court of Starch-chamber, for the contempt of Our Prerogative Royall, in a matter of such consequence, touching the good and benefit of Our people. And to the end Our pleasure and command herein may be the better effected, wee doe hereby straitly charge and command all and singular Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Headboroughs, and all other Our Officers and Subiects whatsoever, whensoever any complaints shall be brought vnto them or any of them, of, or for any offence or misdemeanour committed within the limits of their seuerall Jurisdictions, at all times, & from time to time to be ayding and assisting to such, as shall at any time be employed in or about the execution of this Our ordinance, and carefully and diligently to doe their vttermost endeauours, that this Our Royall command herein signified & expressed, be in all points duly performed. And that they do not suffer any person or persons whatsoever, within any of their Precincts, from and after the publication of this Our Proclamation, to make or cause to be made, directly or indirectly, any Starch, in any other manner, or in any other place or places within this Our Realme of England, Dominion of Wales, or Port, or Towne of Barwicke, then by such persons, and in such manner, and in such places as are herein directed or intended, but that they vse their vttermost powers and endeauours, by all lawfull meanes to hinder and suppress the same. And Our further Will and command is, That, not onely Our said Commissioners, which are, or shall be appointed by Us to this purpose, but also all other Our Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffs, Bayliffes, and other Our chiefe Officers in all the parts of Our Realme of England, and Dominion aforesaid, and Port and Towne of Barwicke, when the nature and quality of the offence and contempt shall appeare, to deserue a more exemplary punishment as aforesaid, shall cause all and every the offenders against any Branch, Article, or part of this Our Royall Proclamation, to be bound with sureties in good bonds to Our vse for their appearance before Us and Our Primate Counsell in Our Court of Starch-chamber, there to answer their contempts.

Giuen at Our Court at Greenwich, the thirtieth day of Iune, in the fift yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton, and Iohn Bill,
Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

ANNO M. DC. XXIX.